

**KANSAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO  
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**November 1, 2016**

The Kansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights convened via teleconference on November 1, 2016 to discuss completion of the voting rights study begun by the previous Advisory Committee, and to discuss topics of civil rights concern in the state for future Committee study.

This meeting was recorded and open to the public from 4:04 PM to 5:06 PM CDT.

**Committee members present:**

- Brien, Russell
- Dodd, Mark
- Edwards, Mildred (Chair)
- Gieber, Steven
- Hodgesmith, Martha
- Holt, Ronald
- Lambert, Kristy
- Ng, Jennifer
- Perucca, Kirk (Vice Chair)
- Unoke, Ewa
- Vega, Gabriela

**Committee Members Absent:**

- Nolan, Phyllis

**USCCR staff present:**

- Wojnaroski, Melissa (DFO)
- Sanders, Corrine

**Members of the public present:** None identified

**Meeting Notes/Decisions Made**

- I. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Approval of minutes was added to the agenda
  - b. No other revisions were made
- II. Welcome and Roll Call
  - a. The Chair provided the welcome and took roll call of members present
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - a. No corrections or amendments to the Committee's meeting minutes from October 4, 2016 were noted.
- IV. Review of the Committee's Draft Report: Civil Rights and the Kansas Secure and Fair Elections Act

- a. The DFO provided an update on the progress of the Committee's draft report on (outline and draft report through section 3a attached).
  - i. Committee members should review this draft for discussion prior to the Committee's December meeting.
    - 1. Are there any major themes which emerged from the testimony but are missing from the report?
    - 2. Is the testimony presented completely, accurately, and in its proper context?
  - ii. USCCR staff aims to provide a draft of the subsequent section on voter participation by the time of the Committee's December meeting for review.
- b. USCCR staff will provide an editable word version of the report so that Committee members may submit edits directly on the report using *track changes*.
- c. USCCR staff clarified the process for developing findings and recommendations for the report:
  - i. Findings reflect the main points from each section of the report
  - ii. Recommendations are developed through Committee discussion, to reflect the report's findings (within the Commission's jurisdiction)
  - iii. USCCR staff draft this section of the report based on Committee discussion for Committee review and revisions

#### V. Project concepts

- a. One project concept was submitted – Funding Impacts on Educational Outcomes in Kansas (attached)
  - i. The Committee was encouraged to think about this project scope
    - 1. Should this be expanded to include other obstacles to equal education?
    - 2. How can educational/learner outcomes be more holistically measured? (beyond test scores)
- b. Other topics Committee members would like to consider
  - i. Affordable housing
  - ii. Name discrimination (national origin, race, ancestry, religion)
  - iii. Postsecondary education budget cuts
  - iv. Welfare reform legislation in KS, disparate impact of foster care and TANF cuts
  - v. Unconscious bias and its impact on: housing, employment, health care, etc.
  - vi. Healthcare access and potential disparate impact from the state's refusal to accept Medicaid dollars under the Affordable Care Act
  - vii. Concealed Carry on Campus
- c. Next steps

- i. The Committee agreed to extend the deadline on submitting project concepts to **Tuesday November 22** to allow additional concepts to be included in the next discussion. Concepts should be submitted to the Chair prior to this deadline.
- ii. Concept topics are not limited to the present discussion; Committee members may submit additional topics prior to the November 22 deadline.
- iii. The Chair will compile all project concepts into a single document to share for Committee review by **Tuesday November 29<sup>th</sup>**.

VI. Public Comment

- a. At the conclusion of the meeting, public lines were opened for discussion. No public comment was received.

VII. Future Plans and Actions

- a. The Committee's next meeting will be **Monday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am Central**
- b. Establishment of a 2017 meeting schedule is to be added to the agenda as a primary discussion topic.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned: 5:06 p.m.